

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 1989

Honorable George Bush  
President of The United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We should like to express our gratitude for your commitment to environmental protection and your concern about threats posed to the health and welfare of our country by continuing air pollution. We share your concerns about the dangerous levels of smog, acid rain, and airborne toxics still present in our air. We urge you to act quickly on those problems by submitting to Congress a strong and comprehensive Clean Air Act reauthorization bill.

In your statements during the campaign and as President, you have indicated repeatedly your commitment to timely action on clean air legislation. In your campaign, you said that you support "reauthorization, correction and strengthening of our clean air laws -- with realistic timetables and tools to get the job done." On the problem of acid rain, you stated that "we can no longer afford to study the problem - we must begin to take effective action." We are encouraged by those statements and by your promise to send a clean air proposal to Congress soon. We urge you to submit legislation that is both strong enough to make significant reductions in pollution sources to protect public health and comprehensive enough to address the wide range of clean air problems facing our nation.

The implementation of the Clean Air Act in 1970 has led to significant improvements in the quality of our air. Unfortunately, the gains made by the Clean Air Act have not kept pace with the introduction of new pollutants to the atmosphere and increasing numbers of pollution sources. Our promise to the American people of clean, healthy air will not be kept unless we take swift action on five clean air problems: carbon monoxide and ozone nonattainment areas, acid rain, ozone depletion and global warming, airborne toxics and air pollution in pristine areas.

Nonattainment Areas: Nearly 100 urban areas--home to 136 million people--still suffer from unhealthy levels of smog in violation of federal standards. The 1988 ozone levels were the worst of the decade, and in many areas the worst ever recorded. Smog can cause or exacerbate respiratory diseases in senior citizens, children

*Environment*